



# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## GREAT GOLD RUSH IN THE GOLDEN STATE

### A Flaming Chapter in the Story of Sunny California

THE golden age of California, America's Golden State, attains its 100th birthday on the 24th of the present month; one of the world's great romances has thus a century behind it, and a stamp will commemorate it. Not without good reason is the State motto Eureka (I have found it).

Claimed by the United States in 1846, and finally ceded to her by Mexico in 1849, California had already seen the opening of a flaming chapter of history, such as no other land had ever known.

The settlers in California then numbered fewer than 2000. San Francisco was a village, its Golden Gate Bridge undreamed of. Hollywood, present-day suburb of Los Angeles and hive of the film industry, was unborn.

Among those early settlers was John A. Sutter, a German-born Swiss, who, ranching near the site of Sacramento, the capital, decided in 1847 to build a flour-mill 47 miles away in the little valley of Coloma. He committed the work to James W. Marshall, a native of New Jersey, who got the mill completed by January 1848. Causing water to be turned on in the millrace on the 24th of the month, to wash away accumulated dirt and gravel, he found a number of bright yellow particles left by the water. The biggest were the size of grains of wheat.

His suggestion that he had discovered gold was scoffed at, but he was not discouraged. He hammered the metal and found it pliable; he put it in the fire and found that it did not readily

melt. Then, convinced that it was gold, he informed Sutter, who tried various simple experiments with acid and proved him right. He had indeed struck gold, and, with his employer, followed up the find.

One of the two little weekly papers published in San Francisco soon made the announcement that gold had been found at Sutter's Mill, and the unending story of wealth was thus launched. That was the beginning; but not for another year did the world at large realise the significance of the discovery.

One of the greatest gold rushes of all time then followed. Men from all civilised lands, and from all walks of life, streamed across the ocean or crossed the American continent in wagons, or on horseback, to share the fabled wealth. Tens of thousands of gold-seekers took part in the scramble, and were rewarded by the finding of tens of millions of pounds' worth of gold.

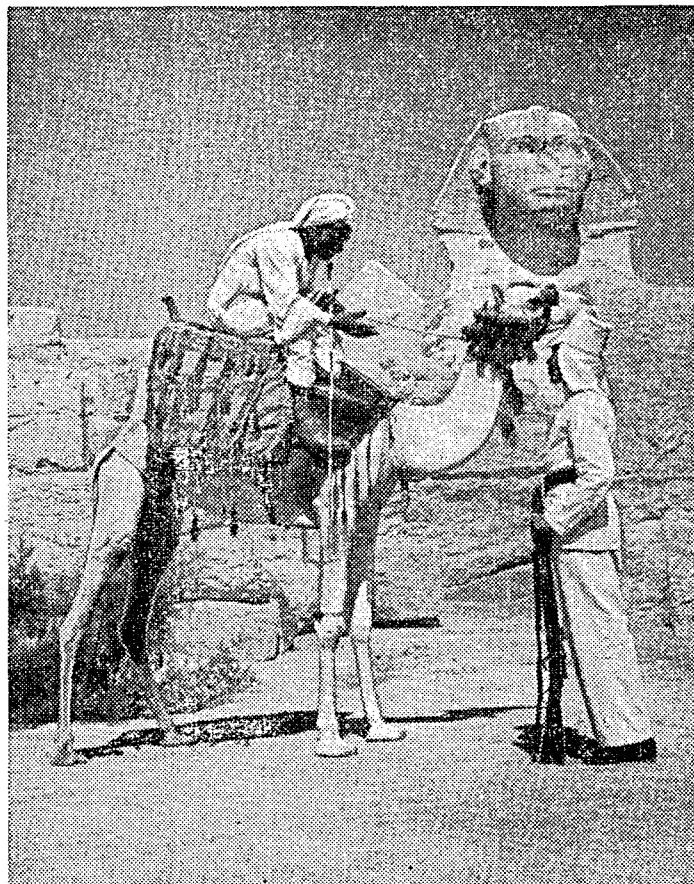
#### The Englishman

Among those hardy pioneers was Edward Hammond Hargrave, an Englishman, who reached California by way of Australia. His experience taught him that the geological formation of the Californian goldfields resembled the kind he had left behind. He therefore returned to Australia, and in New South Wales discovered the first big paying quantities of gold ever revealed there—a feat that brought him rewards of over £12,000 from Australian State Governments and a £250 pension for life.

Other visitors to California included Bret Harte, who left New York State at 15 to make his way to San Francisco and other parts, to become teacher, tax-collector, manual worker, printer, gold miner, and finally the author of deathless stories of the goldfields and their lawless frequenters. To Bret Harte in early days came the then unknown Mark Twain, to be persuaded to write that undying gem of comical invention, *The Jumping Frog of Calaveras*.

California, with its bounteous gold and silver, and, later, its gushing petroleum and vineyards of grapes, and orchards of delicious fruits, thus affected other countries far and wide. The heroes of the State were its early miners, whose triumphs, hardships, and sorrows have since filled so many pages and animated so many Hollywood films; all date back to those wonderful El Dorado days of discovery that began just one century ago.

## DESERT WARNING



In front of the Sphinx, near Cairo, a Sudanese merchant on his camel is halted by an Egyptian policeman.

## Popeye the Sailor's Statue

### MEMORIALS PAYING TRIBUTE TO FOOD

SATISFIED that Popeye the Sailor-man is the best advertisement spinach is ever likely to have, the people of Crystal City, an important spinach-growing centre in Texas, have just set up a statue to him. And in thus honouring the film-cartoon hero, who gets his prodigious strength from eating spinach, they have joined the ranks of those who have put up monuments commemorating things to eat.

In 1937, for example, the citizens of Velaines-en-Barrois, France, unveiled an obelisk in memory of Perrin Lamonthé, who made the first red-currant jelly there in 1364. Almost certainly, however, the wrong man is getting the credit for this discovery, for history records that Edward I of England ate some a hundred years earlier.

During the war the doughnut was honoured with a special statue at Camden, Maine. It commemorates Captain Hanson Gregory, yet he, according to some experts, did not invent that delicacy—but only the hole in it!

#### "Hawkeye's" Apple

Another unusual statue, in Iowa, U.S.A., stands in honour of an apple tree. This tree, which seemed dead in 1852, suddenly sent out new branches bearing apples that were different from any grown in that State. For years its owner, an old Quaker named Hiatt, cultivated it in secret and, under the name "Hawkeye" exhibited it in a big show in 1895. When a judge bit into one of Hiatt's apples he exclaimed "Delicious!" From the fortune that old Hiatt eventually made he spared funds to set up a granite column, dedicated to his apple.

More famous than any of these monuments, however, is the one set up about 20 years ago at Vimoutier, in Normandy. It honours the memory of a native of that village, Marie Harel, who made the first Camembert cheese.

#### A PITCAIRN SOS

AN SOS for a doctor was sent out the other day by the Chief Magistrate of Pitcairn, the lonely island in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean, which was the subject of a C N front-page story recently.

The message, asking for urgent medical help for an islander who was very ill, was received by the cargo ship *Cufic*. The ship was proceeding from Montreal to Adelaide, and she had a New Zealand doctor on board. As quickly as possible the *Cufic* reached the lonely island, and the doctor was put ashore, where he treated not only the sick man, but also several other islanders who were in need of medical attention.

## The Snoek Are Here!

MANY thousands of British homes are having their first experience of a sea-food which South Africa has known for years—snoek, which comes to us in tins.

The tale of the snoek (pronounced Snook) goes back to the early days of European settlement at the Cape of Good Hope, when the Dutch wanted to be sure of a good supply of food for their passing ships.

Nothing available could be better than fish—the easily-caught fish which in late summer came in great swarms. They looked like European pike, and they were dubbed "salt water pike" or, in Dutch, "Snoek." Along the South African coast in late summer the cry frequently

goes up "Snoek are here," and the fishermen put out to catch the fish which swarm in millions in the patches of cold water.

There is an art in catching snoek. A trolled bait (drawn along behind the boat) is necessary, with strips of shark skin or snake skin, or strips of flannel, which flutter through the water like the motion of the sardine on which the snoek likes to feed. In the middle of the bait is a strong hook, five inches in length. A fully-grown snoek will weigh from 12 to 16 pounds.

Some cooks say the snoek is too coarse and too fat, but many South African people regard it as a regular staple food. Snoek stew with onions and tomatoes is a great delicacy.

## ACTS OF PENANCE

THEFTS from his church have led to an English parson doing barefooted penance at his church services, in the hope of inducing the thief to make good his robbery.

In the early days of the Church acts of penance were far more common, and more severe; indeed, men vied one with another in the dreadful severity of the rites they practised, sustaining life on a starvation diet, expiating their sins by torturing themselves day and night.

One of these ascetics, St Simeon Stylites, who died in A.D. 459, spent 30 years on a 72-foot-high pillar in the Syrian

desert, ceaselessly bowing the body in worship, almost to the level of his feet; and for a whole year he is supposed to have stood on one leg.

A more famous, but less arduous act of penance was the one made by Dr Johnson in seeking atonement for having once as a boy refused to attend his father's bookstall at Uttoxeter. In his declining years the old Doctor went back to Uttoxeter, and long stood bareheaded in the pouring rain, in the hope of atoning for that old disobedience. "In contrition I stood, and I hope the penance was expiatory," he said.

## MUSICAL QUIZ



Bound for a new home in the London Zoo, Brenda, a two-year-old bear, was still puzzled by the bagpipes when her ship from Singapore docked at Chatham.



## AN EXCITING YEAR FOR AMERICA

NINETEEN-FORTY-EIGHT—the year in which the American people decide who shall be their next President—promises to be full of important events in their country. Because of the great influence the United States wields today this year is also likely to be fateful for the rest of mankind.

Although the Americans will not elect their President until November the peculiarities of their political system attach much importance to various moves long before the actual polling date. It is no exaggeration to say that the American nation is already seized with political fever. Indeed, many vital steps have already been taken by the rival parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

There are many reasons why the 1948 Presidential elections should be carefully watched by us all. Since 1932, America has been to the polls four times and four times elected the same man—Franklin D. Roosevelt, leader of the Democratic Party. So it was as long ago as 1928 when the last Republican President was chosen. He was Mr Herbert Hoover, known to millions of Europeans, especially children, for his great philanthropic work after the First World War.

Franklin Roosevelt owed his own unprecedented success to his vision, his tremendous capacity

### School Circus

ABOUT the last sideline of active interest which people would expect a headmaster to take up would be a circus. Yet such was the case with the Revd Reginald Joseph Gardiner, of More House School, Frensham, Surrey, who died some months ago and made provision in his will for the sale of his circus property and animals.

Mr Gardiner had about a dozen animals, a proper circus ring, and other circus equipment. Some of his boys helped him with his show, in which he appeared as the chief clown. During the holidays the school circus went on tour.

Some years before, Mr Gardiner had come to the conclusion that the ordinary physical training lessons in school were rather dull. So he decided to introduce a certain amount of comedy into them. That led to further developments, and in due course to the formation of a small school circus.

### THE OLD POTTERS

WHILE clay was being dug for pottery at Wattisfield, in Suffolk, an early Bronze Age beaker was discovered which is believed to date from 1800 to 1500 B.C. Earthenware drinking cups are often found in the graves of Bronze Age inhabitants of Britain, and for this reason archaeologists have bestowed upon them the name of The Beaker Folk.

The Wattisfield beaker was found near the site of Roman pottery kilns, so it appears that pottery-making has been carried on continuously in this part of England for at least 3400 years. It is interesting to think that where our Bronze Age ancestors produced their rude beakers, and the Romans later turned out their elegant vessels, twentieth-century potters are still busy at the same age-old craft.

as a political leader and, above all, to his great understanding of the American mind. But when President for the fourth time he died within four months, and the remaining term of his office is being served by his Vice-President, Mr Harry S. Truman.

A prolonged rule by one party is by no means uncommon in the history of the U.S., but there is ample proof that American opinion then swings in favour of its rival. So a "swing of the pendulum," as Americans call this change, may happen this year and 1949 may see a Republican President in office.

### A Third Party

But the American party struggle is not always between two contestants. Sometimes a breakaway party fights against the two old-established parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. Although since the Civil War no "third party" candidate has won the elections, such outsiders often divert a good number of votes from one party and thus indirectly contribute to the victory of its rival. This interesting possibility has arisen this year owing to the decision of Mr Henry Wallace to stand as Presidential candidate of a progressive party.

Mr Wallace, who was Vice-President during Mr Roosevelt's third term, considers himself to be the heir of his former chief's social policy at home and his peace policy abroad. He attacks strongly both the Democratic and the Republican parties for their attitude to foreign affairs and believes that their anti-Russian policy may lead to a clash of arms.

Though it is fairly certain that Mr Wallace will not be elected President he may capture votes from the Democratic party in the heavily-populated eastern seaboard States, always one of its strongholds.

### Who Will Win?

How might a "swing of the pendulum" affect our own and other people's lives? While a great deal of agreement, as in aid to Europe and other matters of international life, is evident in the programmes of both American parties, the actual carrying out of a policy usually depends on the personality and temperament of the President of the United States.

Who the contestants will actually be will be decided at party conventions during the coming summer. There will certainly be a clash of personalities within the inner councils of both the Democratic and the Republican parties. And a lot of how we fare in the next four years will therefore depend on who will win: the isolationists who support a policy of keeping America aloof, or the internationalists who want her to co-operate more fully in the affairs of all parts of the world.

It is for these reasons that the American scene will this year present a drama of great interest to people of both the Western and the Eastern Hemisphere.

## Britain Must "Delve and Spin"

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS spoke the other day about the grim struggle that lies ahead of us if we are to avoid the necessity for a further cut of our already restricted rations of food and clothing.

His speech dealt with matters which sound very complicated, such as import and export figures, gold and credit reserves, and of course that "hard" fellow, the dollar, loomed large in his picture; but it all comes to something very simple, which is that the British people today are just like a family who are spending more than they earn. They accomplish this Micawber-like feat by using up their savings and money they have borrowed.

Last year, said Sir Stafford, we spent about £460,000,000 more than we earned, and every month we had to dig into our reserves of gold or into the dwindling store of dollars we had borrowed from the U.S. and Canada.

This year we may get some help from the Marshall Plan, by which the U.S. would help Western Europe to help itself to recover from the war. But we cannot go on living on Marshall plans; we have got to export enough goods to pay for what we import.

Our two basic necessities are food and clothes. The more food we produce in Britain, the less we need import from abroad. The more people who go to work in the textile factories, the more clothes there will be to spare for us to buy. We must, as Sir Stafford said, "delve and spin."

Hard work all round will save Britain in peace as it did in war.

### DANCING BEES

NOR only bee-keepers but all who study the way in which insects and other forms of wild life communicate with each other will be interested in the results of recent research work on honey bees by Professor K. von Frisch and others.

It is now known that a honey bee, on discovering a profitable source of nectar or honey, can indicate to her companions in the hive the existence of the source, its exact direction, and its approximate distance away.

Attracting other bees to her at the comb by giving them tiny portions of the pollen or nectar found, she performs a series of dances which the research workers are now able to interpret as surprisingly accurate information to her companions.

### A Poet Comes Home

THE great Irish poet W. B. Yeats died at Roquebrune, France, in 1939, and now his remains are to rest in the "dim, green, well-beloved isle," as he once described his homeland. Before he died he expressed the wish to his wife that his body should lie for a year in French soil and then be exhumed and re-buried at Drumcliffe in Ireland.

He wrote his own epitaph in which are the words: "Under bare Benbulbin's Head in Drumcliffe churchyard, Yeats is laid."

The war prevented the exhumation being carried out when he wished.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**MORE COAL.** The output of the Ruhr coalmines last year was 71,000,000 tons, which was 17,000,000 tons more than in 1946. British coal output for the year was 199,700,000 tons compared with 191,790,000 tons in 1946.

The people of Barnstaple, Massachusetts, recently provided a tea, with ham, for 300 old people of Barnstaple, Devon.

*The Bishop of Aotearoa, the Right Revd F. A. Bennett, who is a Maori, is to attend the Lambeth Conference of 1948.*

**MONEY TO BURN.** When a light seaplane overturned 120 miles off the Vancouver coast, the only way the pilot and passenger could attract attention was by burning ten-dollar notes. Fishermen saw the flames and came to their rescue.

The death rate in France fell from 20 a thousand in 1911 to 13.4 a thousand in 1946. This was to some extent due to the decrease in the number of deaths from tuberculosis.

A survey of unemployment in 28 countries made last autumn by the International Labour Office shows that New Zealand had the best figure with only 86 registered unemployed at the end of last October. Most countries showed an improvement.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**CHURCH SCHOOLS.** The Church will have about 170 schools in London instead of the 218 it had before the war, if the London Diocesan Board of Education's plan is accepted.

Last year Southend had 4,659,000 visitors, half-a-million more than in the previous year.

*The oldest newspaper in Scotland, the Aberdeen Press and Journal, recently celebrated its 200th anniversary. Its first number appeared less than two years after the Battle of Culloden.*

At the Luton factory of Vauxhall Motors, Limited, a diesel generator station with the largest output in Britain has been completed. It has five two-stroke units with a total output of 5000 kilowatts.

At the end of November there were 31,250 television licences in force, an increase of 3400 on October's figure.

**HOMESICK.** A cow kept on a Maidenhead, Berkshire, farm returned six times when sent to a farm two-and-a-half miles away.

British motor-car exports during November were the highest ever recorded. Their value was £4,459,025.

In the hosiery industry, 60,000 workers are to have eleven days holiday with pay every year. Men will receive £1 a day and women 13s 4d.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**BUSHLAND JAMBOREE.** The Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree, which is to take place in Australia next year, is to be held near Ringwood in Victoria. The site consists of 1000 acres of bushland with six miles of river front.

Boy Scouts of the 2nd Eston Troop (Yorkshire) recently finished constructing their own headquarters from two communal air-raid shelters, which they partially demolished and rebuilt to suit their own needs.

**GOOD CUSTOMER.** Britain was the best customer of the combined American and British zones of Germany last year, having placed orders worth £5,180,000.

The Wyatt Earp, Antarctic exploration ship, has been recalled to Melbourne. In stormy weather she developed a leak, and will have to be overhauled in dry dock.

*Nine New Zealand women teachers are coming to Britain this year, exchanging positions for a year with teachers in this country.*

**GIFT.** Britain has presented two British cars, a Rolls Royce and an Austin, to the first President of the Republic of Burma, Sao Shwe Thaik.

A Chinese order, the Decoration of the Brilliant Star, has been given to Lady Mountbatten for her noble and humanitarian work during the war.

*Canada's new National Defence College, which is in old Fort Frontenac, Kingston, Ontario, was recently opened. Fort Frontenac was established by the French in 1672.*

The British garrison of Hong Kong is to be one battalion of the Buffs, two of the Gurkhas, and a regiment of field artillery.

**MODEL PLANE.** The model plane in the picture taken at the Highways of the Air Exhibition, which appeared in CN for January 10, was incorrectly described as a Constellation. It was, in fact, a model of the Handley Page Hermes IV, a new type of aircraft not yet in general production.

Although Mr Frank Williams has retired from Ipswich County Court office after 50 years' service, his father, aged 93, a solicitor, refuses to retire and goes to his office every day.

*Sir Barry Jackson, Director of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, is to retire from that position when this year's season ends, on October 2.*

**MORE POTATOES.** Britain's potato acreage this year will be 1,423,000, the largest ever recorded.

An emu at Paignton Zoo has laid a clutch of eggs.

*At the National Portrait Gallery, London, a series of lectures on 18th-century England will be given on Saturdays at 3.15 up to April 10.*

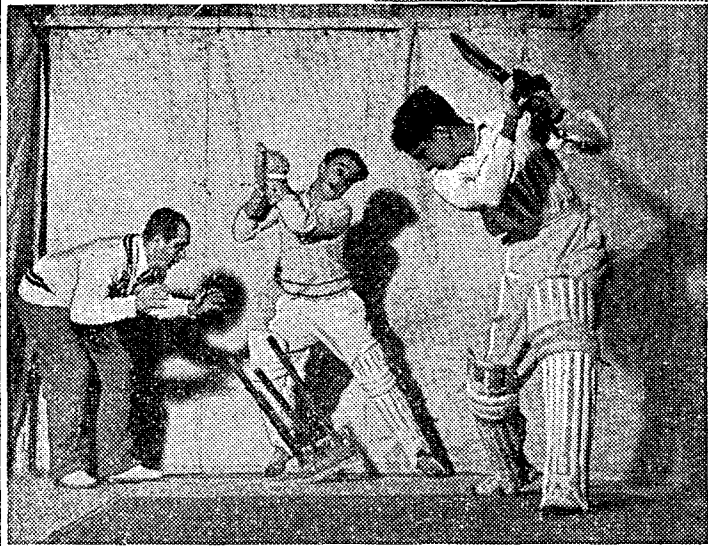
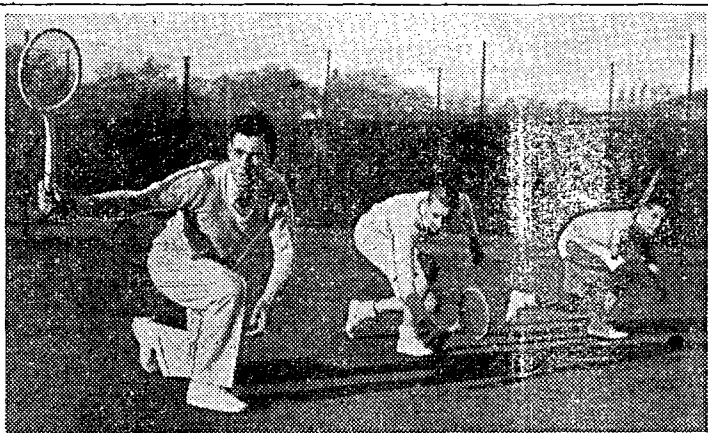
About 10,000 German prisoners have volunteered to remain on British farms at the same wages as British workers.

*London's ambulances last year answered the record number of 64,537 calls.*



## TAKING TIME BY THE FORELOCK

Here, to remind us that summer is just round the corner, we see boys who mean to do well at tennis and cricket. On the right, Dan Maskell, the famous Wimbledon coach, demonstrates a low back-hand drive; and below, a schoolboy wicket-keeper is being coached at the Chiswick Indoor Cricket School by Alec Thompson, the Middlesex County player.



## The Castle School

FIFTY schoolboys are accommodated at Vanbrugh Castle, Blackheath, the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund's school, and residential home for the sons of deceased airmen, now that the new term has begun. It is the first time the school has been able to hold its full number of boys since it was damaged by bombs during the war.

Vanbrugh Castle, at the top of Maze Hill, has been a London landmark for over 200 years. It was built in 1717 by Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect and dramatist, for his own use while Wren and he were converting Greenwich Palace into a naval hospital. Later, when French prisoners were confined there, it was nicknamed the Bastille.

## OAK TREE ALTAR

AN oak tree cut down twelve years ago by Mr Charles Link, of Newchurch, Kent, has now been made by him into a new altar for the little church of St Mary-in-the-Marsh, Romney Marsh.

The Bishop of Dover dedicated the new altar from an oak tree to the memory of a member of the church who bequeathed a sum of money to improve the church.

## Little Thoughts and Little Noises

AT St Gluvias church, Cornwall, 20 displaced persons from the Ukraine attend regularly, so the vicar is learning Ukrainian.

The Ukraine, which means Borderland, used to be known as Little Russia in distinction to Greater Russia to the north. Philologists have found it difficult to decide whether the Little Russians' speech is just a dialect of Russian or a distinct Slavonic language. It has many delightful folk songs which have sometimes been divided into "little thoughts" and "little noises"; the first being in a minor key and the second having a lively lilt suitable to dancing.

## MORE FOOD SHIPS WANTED

NEW ZEALAND apple-growers are expecting big crops in their orchards during the autumn months of February, March, April, and May. They would like to ship half a million bushel cases of apples to Britain. Experts in Britain and New Zealand are now busy seeing if there will be enough ships to carry all these apples and the meat, butter, cheese, and wool that are waiting at New Zealand ports for shipment to Britain.

## The Bird by the Loch

ON his rounds along the shores of remote Burncrooks Loch, a Dumbartonshire shepherd saw a bird deliberately toppling into the water at his approach. Using its wings for swimming under water, the bird at last drifted to the lochside, where it was picked up. Both of its legs were tightly bound together with twisted stems of lichen, wisps of hay, and wool, in which small twigs and heather bells were entwined.

It would appear that when young the bird's legs had been snared in sticky lichen, and as time went on it gathered other hindrances like wisps of wool left by grazing sheep. It took nearly an hour to cut away the natural snare and then the bird flew off.

## LAKELAND GEM

ONE more corner of Lakeland has come into the keeping of the National Trust. It is Fir Island, Lake Coniston, and it was bequeathed to the Trust by Mr Arthur Severn, who died last August. A tiny island it is, with its trees reflected in the waters of Lake Coniston, that mirror of so much grandeur and loveliness; and it has the added interest of having been one of the sights beloved of John Ruskin, whose home was on the shores of the lake and who lies not far away, under the cedars of Coniston churchyard.

## GRASSHOPPER CLOUDS

VAST swarms of grasshoppers recently covered the racecourse at Adelaide, in South Australia, and rose in clouds at the racehorses' approach. Jockeys had to wear goggles to protect their eyes.

Masses of the grasshoppers were dumped in the sea, where they caused such quantities of fish to congregate that anglers grew tired of catching them. The grasshopper swarms did considerable damage to crops of lucerne and other green foodstuffs required for sheep.

## JACK'S THE BOY

FEW young lawn tennis players have more chance of world fame than 16-year-old John Horn, who comes from Ilford, in Essex. Last summer John leapt into prominence by winning the Essex Junior Championship and then appearing in the Junior Championships at Wimbledon.

Early this month he won two titles in two days when he gained the two boys' championships—in the under 21 class and in the under 18 class—of the Junior Lawn Tennis Club of Great Britain at the Queen's Club—a really brilliant performance.

Jack Horn proved himself to be well equipped for early promotion to the ranks of first-class tennis by his play in these championships, for his early games were played on a court soaked with rain and sleet, and his second title was won despite an attack of tennis elbow.

He gives promise of following in the footsteps of Paddy Roberts, of Torquay, who graduated from the Junior Championship to a place in Britain's international side last summer. With two such grand young players we can look forward with some hope that before long Britain will again hold the world's greatest title—the Men's Singles at Wimbledon.

## More Butter

BECAUSE of a wonderful season for grass in New Zealand between August and Christmas the farms of the Dominion are now certain to send more butter to Britain than in any year since 1940.

New Zealand farmers have been working long hours, and thanks to sunshine and showers during the New Zealand spring months they were able to make 6315 tons more butter between August and November last year than in the same months of 1946.

Most of the milk from New Zealand's 1,600,000 dairy cows is made into butter and cheese for British households, while the skimmed milk and whey are retained on the farms as food for hundreds of thousands of bacon pigs.

## Sanctuary For the Gannets

NATURALISTS will be delighted that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have succeeded in buying the island of Grassholm as a sanctuary for the grandest of our white sea birds, the gannets, or solan geese.

This 23-acre island off the coast of Pembrokeshire has been from time out of mind the home of these birds which, averaging some 7000 pairs, nest there each summer. Each pair produces one chick, which they nurture with devoted care while it is helpless. Then they leave it to fend for itself, and maybe break its neck on the rocky cliffs of its home unless it can fly faultlessly and put to sea safely at the first attempt.

There are seals, too, on Grassholm during nursery time, but the gannets are the chief concern.

In all the world there are only 16 other gannet sanctuaries, 11 of them in Britain, and Grassholm now becomes the 17th. There are people in Scotland who eat young gannets, but most of us delight to see the birds alive, flying above the sea and diving into it from on high, like beautiful arrows fashioned of white ivory.

During the recent war Grassholm, with the gannets in residence, was for a brief spell used for bombing practice by American planes. Fortunately urgent protests were in time to avert the full terrors of such an operation, but bombs did burst among some of the nesting birds. Now the gannets and their island are safe for ever, we hope, and the seals will share their sanctuary, immune from peril.

## A Little Rice

RICE from the paddy fields of the East will begin soon to trickle back to Europe, following a decision of the International Emergency Food Council to reopen that market in a limited way, in the hope that it will encourage Eastern rice producers to grow more.

Rice—the main food of about a third of the world's inhabitants—is grown almost entirely in the East. But rice crops have been poor in the past year or two, causing great distress to countries like India, China, and Japan, whose people depend upon rice for food.

Oriental people do not discard the brown coats that cover the rice grain, as we do, for the very good reason that in those coats there is great food value in the way of vitamins, mineral salts, and other properties.

## NEW HEADMASTER FOR RUGBY

IN place of Mr P. H. B. Lyon, who is retiring this summer, Sir Arthur Forde has been appointed Headmaster of Rugby School. The choice of Sir Arthur for this famous public school is an interesting one, for he has never been a schoolmaster. He was a scholar of Rugby and became head of the school and a member of the fifteen, but later he became a solicitor, and during the war he became a Temporary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Supply and, later, Under-Secretary to the Treasury. Obviously he has been chosen for his administrative ability.

## SAVING THE SEALS

CANADA and the U.S. have arranged to continue protecting the seals of the north Pacific Ocean. The first convention to save the seals was made in 1911 between the U.S., Great Britain, Japan, and Russia. At that time the seals had been woefully reduced in numbers by ruthless hunters, and the herd of the Pribilof Islands, in the Bering Sea, consisted of no fewer than about 216,000; now it numbers over 3,600,000.

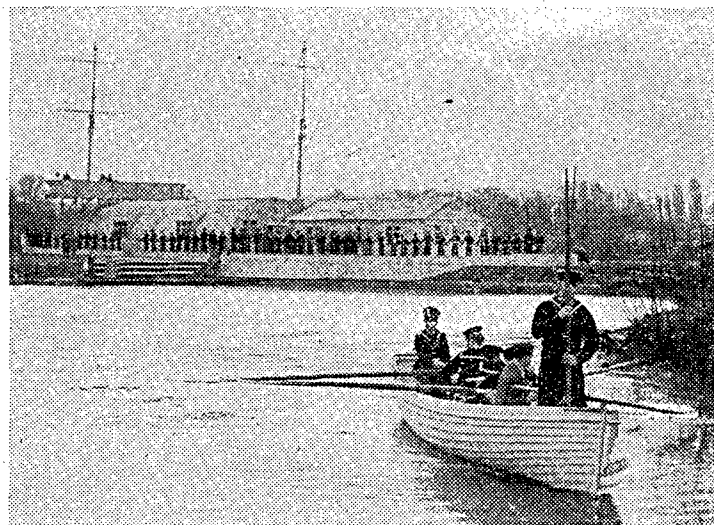
In 1941 Japan broke the original convention, but the U.S. and Canada did not cease to co-operate to regulate seal-hunting and preserve seal life.

## DDT-Proof Flies

FROM the U.S. Agriculture Department comes the disturbing report that American houseflies are becoming DDT-proof. Can this have happened because some flies had powers of resistance against the insecticide and their young have inherited this power, so that generations of DDT-resistant flies are multiplying?

We have been warned of a similar thing happening in the case of the indiscriminate use of penicillin; some disease germs, here and there, may survive its use against them and thus penicillin-proof germs will multiply.

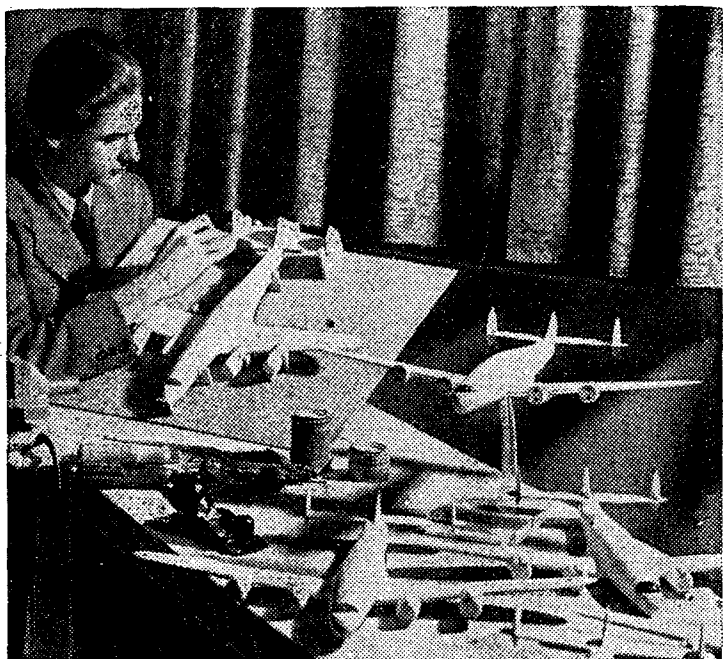
Here is a problem for young scientists to grapple with, for man's struggle against his insect and microbe enemies is not yet won.



## Ship Ashore

On a strip of land in a Dartford lake is the headquarters of the local Sea Cadet Corps, the Anson, which was "launched" the other day. With masts and bridge, and a landing-stage on the water's edge, it is a strange sight in this Kent town.





### The Model-Maker

Although he is only 19, Peter Nelson, of Hounslow, is an expert scale-model plane-maker and has received commissions for models from many foreign airlines. Here we see him working on models of Constellations.

## The Bankers Tot Up

THE gigantic figure of £73,329,687,000 has just been declared as the total of cheques and bills cleared at the Bankers' Clearing House in London during 1947.

The bankers have found that nearly 260 million cheques went to build this huge total, and that almost £240,000,000 was handled on every working day at the Clearing House. Yet no money changed hands at all! If this total is divided by the population of Great Britain, it works out that each person issued nearly £1600 in cheques in the year! But if the number of cheques is examined the average is less than six cheques per person!

Besides the central Clearing House in London, twelve provincial cities have each their own Clearing House, but their combined totals, though still steadily growing, are small compared with London's, and amounted to only £1,413,097,000 last year.

Before cheques were as much used as they are today, each

bank had a corps of messengers known as "runners," whose duty was to take cheques round to the banks on which they were drawn, and to bring back the cash for them. Tradition has it that this system existed until some unknown genius had the idea of saving much time and work by exchanging equivalent bundles of cheques with another runner. This idea soon became popular, and all sorts of nooks and crannies served as regular changing centres, as well as coffee houses and taverns. In some cases the hubbub created by the cheque-changers was so great outside their windows that the bankers had to come out and drive the rabble away.

Eventually, once it was found that the system was clearly established, one room was rented at Martin's Bank—at 19s 6d per quarter—and the Clearing House began its history. A large table fitted with drawers, each bearing a bank's name, stood in the room, and each day special clerks sorted cheques among the various drawers up till 3 o'clock. At 4 o'clock each bank added up what it owed the others and was owed in turn, and a cash settlement to balance the books was made.

Here it was that the practice of "crossing" cheques began, when for identification purposes each cheque had the name of the presenting banker written across it before it was placed in the appropriate drawer.

By 1810 the cash settlements at the end of the day amounted to £250,000, but it was not until 1854 that another bright idea resulted in the balances being paid by cheque, too, to save handling all that money.

British people draw very many more cheques than any other nation; even in wealthy America the total per head of the population is not nearly as big as ours. We have a right to be proud of the reliability of British banks; and it is a worthy tribute to our confidence in them that £240,000,000 a day changes hands without the paying over of a single penny!

## FAME FROM CURIOSITIES

A HUNDRED years ago, on January 19, 1848, Isaac D'Israeli passed to his final rest at Bradenham, in Buckinghamshire. Father of the great Lord Beaconsfield, he was also famous in his own right as author.

The son of a Jewish merchant who came to England from Venice, Isaac D'Israeli was born in London in May 1766. Resisting his father's wish that he should follow a commercial career, he resolved to devote his life to literature and, inheriting a fortune from his grandmother, was able to do as he wished.

His first essay in authorship was at sixteen, when he addressed some verses to Dr Johnson, and later he tried his hand at romantic fiction like his Oriental tale *Mejnoun and Leila*. But these were no more successful than his poetry and his historical work, and his literary fame rests chiefly on his *Curiosities of Literature*.

The first volume of this fascinating collection of anecdotes and sketches, the result of intensive researches at the British Museum, was published before he was 30 and took the reading public by storm. Its success encouraged him to delve still further into the byways of literature, and during the next 40 years five more volumes of *Curiosities* were published, supplemented by others on *Literary Amenities*, the *Calamities of Authors*, and the *Quarrels of Authors*.

### Other Authors Helped

These works were constantly referred to by the most eminent authors, both for information and opinions, and a writer in Bentley's *Miscellany* in March 1848, said "that more than one of the *Waverley Novels* was obviously suggested by the *Curiosities of Literature*, and to that work our modern writers of historical romance have been far more deeply indebted than they have ever yet acknowledged."

Isaac D'Israeli lived entirely for literature, and although he was afflicted with total blindness in his last few years, he still went on with his writings, ably assisted by his daughter Sarah. He died in January 1848, a few months before his famous son Benjamin, already an established novelist, was chosen as leader of his party in the House of Commons.

### Going Up



The driver of this car looks down from a height of nine feet as he is whisked off the ground by the new mobile hoist, which can lift weights up to two tons.

## The Editor's Table

### BRITAIN'S WAY

THE Prime Minister spoke memorable words when he staked out the claims for Britain's way and the British view. "Ours is a philosophy in its own right," he said, "our task is to work out a system of a new and challenging kind which combines individual freedom with a planned economy, democracy with social justice."

People's opinions may vary as to how the system should be worked out; but all will agree that Britain's way is not a copy of any other country's fashion, or any other country's policy. It is the result of the tried and ordered living together of some fifty millions of people in a group of northern islands whose language and civilisation have spread far and wide.

IN the mere matter of population Britain's position in world affairs would seem small and unimportant. It is not a country set on a great continental land mass, with its coasts resting on the "far sundered oceans" thousands of miles apart. Neither are the island people of Britain diverse and separated into great States; they have learned through the centuries to live together in peace and yet to preserve their individual freedoms. That is their chief distinguishing quality.

The British way is a way of mutual tolerance and appreciation of the other man, a readiness to believe that he has a point of view which is reasonable and must be respected. It recognises that truth is more likely to be discovered by friendly debate and discussion than by compulsion.

UPON such foundations does Britain's way rest—foundations which have stood firm through all the changes and the strife which the passing years have brought because of a readiness to live and learn, to adapt and modify. And it is on these foundations that Britain will continue to stand firm while venturing forth on new ways of living, to show the world, as she has done before, that a democracy can move on to fulfil men's hopes and dreams without the force of arbitrary authority.

Britain's way is a way of trust in the ordinary man as an intelligent citizen capable of making up his own mind, and averse to State compulsion. It is a way of faith in humanity as a creation of God, and it rejects in no uncertain terms the idea that Man was made to serve the State. It is a way of life based on a belief in every individual's right to freedom, within practical limits; and it is a way of life which will continue.

### JUST AN IDEA

Surely no finer tribute could be paid to any man than this: He went about with four words constantly on his lips, Can I help you?

## A Job For Older Boys and Girls

THE number of people killed on the roads last November, 476, was the lowest for any November since 1931. But it is disappointing to note that young people did not share in this good record, for more of them were killed last November than in the same month of 1946. The children who went from us in November because of road accidents included 74 pedestrians and eight cyclists, compared with 63 pedestrians and seven cyclists for the month in 1946.

This means that our boys and girls did not, during the year, maintain that improvement in road safety habits of which there had been encouraging signs previously.

It is significant that more than half of the children who lost their lives on the roads last November were under seven. That shows how we must concentrate on teaching the junior road safety and, perhaps nothing is likely to teach them more quickly than a good example from the older boys and girls.

## OLDHAM MAKES FRIENDS

MANY European volunteer workers are now helping Lancashire in the big textile export drive; they come from Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Germany. Recently, the people of Oldham made up their mind to reveal to them the essentially friendly face of Lancashire. The citizens' community centre was opened to the European workers for five weeks' free membership.

After their start in getting to know what a Lancashire club is like, the workers may become permanent members for half a crown a year. Oldham holds out a big friendly hand to these Europeans in a new land; and when the visitors' English improves Oldham believes it is going to make permanent friends with them.

## Under the



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If lighthouses are landmarks

SOME boys are always cracking jokes. Like to get a break.

A MAN says his watch has never stopped. Perhaps it has never gone.

A COUNCIL is spending more than £300 on office carpets. Thinks it is time something was put down.

NEARLY 27,000 people are on the waiting list for telephones in the West Midlands. Nobody can read it.

SEALS were seen on Whitby beach. May have fallen off somebody's watch chain.



## INVENTORS

LONG and thorough investigations have been carried out by the American Army and Navy to discover the most suitable material for Arctic clothing. The experts now admit there is nothing better than the Eskimo's furs for keeping out the cold.

Perhaps it is not the first time the scientific Backroom Boys have been anticipated by the primitive Backwoods' Boffins. For instance, when we see photographs of the modern tailless aircraft, the flying wing, we are inevitably reminded of the Australian Aboriginal's boom-crang, which flew through the air with the greatest of ease long before the aeroplane.

## Weather Report

TWO American states are at loggerheads — and their heads are in the clouds.

Utah proposes to drop dry ice on the clouds in order to create snow for winter sportsmen. Nevada threatens to impose a tax on Utah for taking moisture that might fall on the neighbouring state if left to Nature.

Reading this report on a cloudy, wet, January day, we hoped it would not be seen by our Chancellor of the Exchequer, pondering his next Budget. He might get the notion of imposing Entertainment Tax on sunny days in Britain!

## SO SAY THE TREES

BARE stand the trees against a leaden sky.  
A gloomy dankness fills the very air,  
That seems to whisper to us,  
"All must die."  
Yet there's no reason why we should despair,  
For, deep within the earth, strong roots entwine.  
The trees still live, though winter tempest torn,  
And so it is with loved ones—yours and mine—  
They fall asleep, and wake to greet the morn. T. B. Gleave

## Editor's Table

A BOY says he took his brother's bicycle for a lark. Must have been short-sighted.

MANY girls are going in for gardening. It brings them out.

SOME land girls are to be given special arm bands. Musical honours.

KENTISH schoolboys have broken street lamps. Light damage.

A MAN's best friends are his books, says a writer. You can always shut them up.



SOME people have annoying habits. They put them on.

## THINGS SAID

COAL to us is of more value than gold itself, for our real wealth lies in the coal we dig up from the bowels of the earth.

Director-General of Research,  
National Coal Board

NINETY percent of what overseas visitors spend here is net gain to this country.

Lord Hacking

BURMA will never forget the dignity and grace with which the British withdrew their sovereignty over Burma and left her free.

Burmese Foreign Minister

I THINK austerity was probably sent by God to give us a better understanding of the right way of living.

The Archdeacon  
of Stoke-on-Trent

As a motto for railwaymen I suggest "Speed the traveller and hurry the goods."

Parliamentary Secretary,  
Transport Ministry

## School Milk and School Meals

WHEN winter gets its grip on Britain, school milk and midday meals are of the utmost importance. Milk and a good square meal every day provide the stamina which wards off illness.

To the children of today milk at school is just part of the daily routine; but it is a very young public service. It was in 1927 that the National Milk Publicity Council started a scheme whereby schoolchildren could buy a pint of milk for a penny, and by 1933 nearly a million schoolchildren were taking advantage of it. But many poor families could not afford it, and in 1934 the Cambridge Borough Council granted free milk and meals to children in families with incomes below a certain level. This paved the way for a national development of a service which today is playing a major part in the building-up of a generation of Britons fitter than any in our history.

## WE MUST BE FREE OR DIE

It is not to be thought of that the flood  
Of British freedom, which, to the open sea  
Of the world's praise, from dark antiquity  
Hath flowed, "with pomp of waters, unwithstood,"  
Roused though it be full often to a mood  
Which spurns the check of salutary bands,  
That this most famous Stream in bogs and sands  
Should perish; and to evil and to good  
Be lost for ever. In our halls is hung  
Armoury of the invincible knights of old:  
We must be free or die, who speak the tongue  
That Shakespeare spoke; the faith and morals hold  
Which Milton held.—In every thing we are sprung,  
Of Earth's first blood, have titles manifold. Wordsworth

## THE MAORIS' OWN BIBLE

By the end of 1948 it is probable that the big task of revising the Bible in the Maori language will have been completed.

Already the group of Maori scholars who have the work in hand have been able to send, to the Bible Society in London the typewritten script of the New Testament. Now they are busy going through the Old Testament, book by book.

New Zealand's Maoris have had a Bible printed in their own language for a hundred years, thanks to the work of early British missionaries. Their new revised Bible will be somewhat more accurate. Great care has been taken to avoid spelling mistakes.

Although all young Maoris speak, read, and write English at school they still prefer to read their Bibles in Maori and to attend church services where the hymns, prayers, and lessons are all in Maori.

## We Three



Ernst Baier and his wife, former skating champions, introduce their son to the ice in the Bavarian Alps.

## Newbury Goes Parish Pumping

NEWBURY in Berkshire recently conducted an exciting experiment called "Parish Pumping." The idea originated with the Chamber of Commerce, and the Bureau of Current Affairs was asked to co-operate. Newbury's "Parish Pumping" consisted of asking citizens of the town to express an opinion on the question "Is Newbury well run?"

A fortnight before the meeting workers from the Bureau visited schools, youth clubs, churches, trade unions, British Legion, and any organisations which could muster a group of people. They distributed specimen questions and generally stirred up interest in the idea so that when Newbury assembled for the "Pumping" the big cinema was packed.

The proceedings began with one-minute contributions from the audience on topics of local interest. Then attention switched to the platform and the team of local officials sitting on it. They answered 34 written questions covering local elections, lighting, rates, and housing; and the proceedings ended with a "free for all" question-and-answer.

## This Gallant Ship Will Never Sail Again

ON the grim reefs of Cape Dorset in Baffin Land, where the icy seas of the Arctic meet the North American Continent, the last timbers of a gallant ship have been claimed by the waves. The veteran ship Nascopie, used to provision the remote trading stations of the Hudson's Bay Company, has been broken up plank by plank, during the autumn and winter, following her crash on the rocks in the gales of July 1947.

The Nascopie, which for thirty years and more sailed the treacherous waters of Hudson Bay, was on her last voyage when a terrific storm seemed determined to claim her as a victim. She was no ordinary ship. Built on the Tyne, her steel plates and reinforced sides earned her the title of ice-breaker. The Nascopie every year had to face masses of ice, and her method was not to ram the ice, but with her curved prow to ride up on a mass of ice and by sheer weight crash down through it. Then, in open water, she would push with her strong nose until the next mass made her repeat the process of crushing.

Quebec for the making of aluminium.

In 1943 the Nascopie was once caught amid moving ice and drifted helplessly for six weeks. This was when she was attempting to reach the remote station of Fort Ross in the central Arctic Islands, a feat which she accomplished in 1944. In that fight to get through she had to sail against the loose ice pouring in a vast stream out of Hudson Strait, and could only make a few miles a day.

During most of this time her skipper was Captain Thomas Smellie (whom the C.N. saluted on his retirement in 1946), and now his old ship has had her last voyage. It almost seems that the Nascopie had determined to avoid the hammers of the ship-breaker, choosing rather to split in pieces on the rocks of Baffin Land. That was a fitting end to the life of a ship whose name will always be remembered affectionately on the seas where the ice flows strongly.

## Submarine Encounter

During the First World War the Nascopie served the British Government, and then began the long trek between British ports and Canada's Far North, carrying supplies and bringing back furs. Sometimes she carried administrative officials and police officers, and so helped to lay the foundations of peace and order in the remote wilderness. She steamed in Government service between Murmansk and Archangel, and once in the White Sea, armed with only one gun, she engaged and sank a German submarine. Later she carried munitions from France to Russia and brought back cargoes of wheat.

She could steam 11,000 miles in three months—the season of little ice and open water, and she was so dependable that stations, outposts, hospitals and missionaries could rely on her appearance.

During the last war the Nascopie was kept in her own home waters where her strong timbers could always be relied on to get her through the ice. She ran the submarine blockade off Halifax, Nova Scotia, to fetch sugar from the West Indies, and once brought a precious cargo of cryolite from Greenland to

## FLYING STUDENT

MANY famous men have attended university and held jobs at the same time, but surely no one has ever worked his way through university by flying the Atlantic!

Yet that is what Eric Linof, of New York, is doing. Every Friday afternoon Eric leaves the New York University, where he is studying for a medical degree, and pilots a Clipper to Britain.

Eric became a pilot in the U.S. Army during the war, and when he was demobilised he went back to his classes. To pay his expenses he began flying at weekends for Pan-American Airways. Recently he completed his fortieth Atlantic crossing.

At least Eric has a good excuse if he is late for his classes—"Sorry, sir, but we encountered strong headwinds over the Atlantic, so my plane was late arriving from Britain."



THIS ENGLAND The Market Hall of Chipping Campden, a recent acquisition of the National Trust



## THE BLACK BRADMAN

ONE of the most delightful cricketers in the world is George Headley, the 39-year-old captain of the West Indies team playing England in the first Test match in Barbados this week.

Headley is only a small man but his power with the bat has won for him the title of "The Black Bradman." He did not start playing cricket until he was 17, and was still in his teens when chosen to play for Jamaica against other islands in the West Indies group. International cricket honours soon followed, and he has long been the leading century-maker of his country.

George Headley is one of the few men who have twice scored a hundred in each innings of a Test match; he performed this feat against England at Georgetown in 1930, and again at Lord's in 1939. Another of his historic innings was one of 344 not out for All-Jamaica against Lord Tennyson's England team at Kingston in 1932.

Barbados, where the first Test is being played, has one of the finest cricket pitches in the world, and it was there, in February 1944, that Fred Worrell and John Goddard, two of the Barbados batsmen, set up a new world's fourth wicket record of 502 runs; Worrell's share of this vast total was 308 not out. Two years later Worrell helped to beat this record when, with C. L. Walcott, he scored 314 not out in a stand of 574 runs for the fourth wicket. Worrell and Walcott were playing for Barbados against Trinidad.

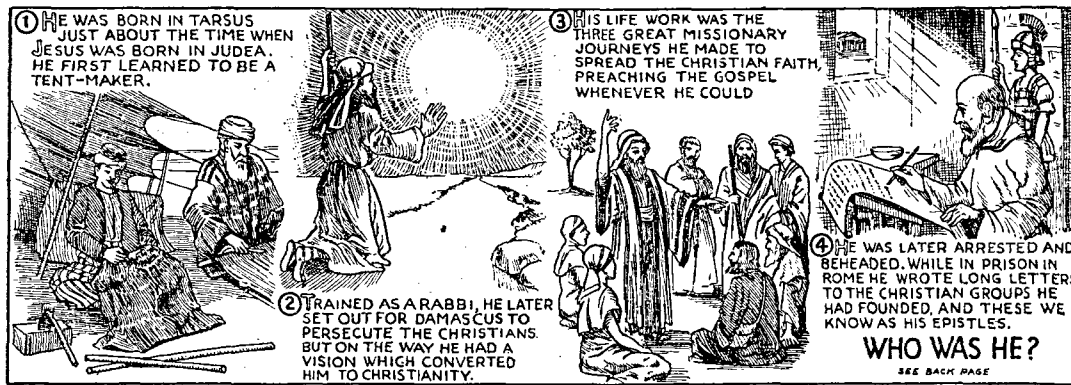
Fred Worrell is only 22, and if he and George Headley really get going with the bat in the present series of Tests the English bowlers and fielders are in for a busy time.

### MISS CHEN GOES SOUTH

A CHINESE nurse, Miss T. Y. Chen, who has been serving for five years in a hospital under the Church Missionary Society in Kunning, has been granted a bursary by the New Zealand Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee to enable her to take a course of nursing this year at Wellington.

## WHO WAS HE?

### Picture-Story of a Great Missionary



## Looking to the Lone White South

SOUTH AFRICAN sailors have hoisted their flag over two desolate, previously uninhabited islets in the stormy wastes of the southern Indian Ocean, Prince Edward Isle and Marion Island, which lie about 1200 miles south-east of the Cape Province coast. The right of occupation was given by the British Government.

The landing was made from the frigate Transvaal, and though summer is still smiling in the Southern Hemisphere, snow fell when the party set foot on Prince Edward Isle. Another frigate is to take stores and huts to these inhospitable rocks, for a meteorological station is to be established there.

The extent to which aircraft can use the islands is not yet known, but we may suppose that in the future Prince Edward and

Marion will become stepping stones on the route to Antarctica, whose mineral wealth lies under the eternal snow and ice awaiting the cunning of man's hand to exploit it.

Several hundred miles to the east of Prince Edward and Marion Islands the Australians have been busy on bleak Heard Island. Here men of the Australian National Antarctic Expedition took advantage of recent "calm" weather to land heavy stores. This was tricky work for the small beaching craft had to be guided by hand through pounding surf. First a bulldozer was got ashore and this helped to haul the small craft to the beach. As the weather worsened there was a desperate race to get the last pontoon to land before it was smashed by the great waves that battered the

rocky shores with increasing force.

Then a party began to explore this bare, wintry land and came across its chief inhabitants—a host of penguins about 10,000 in number. These islanders in their thick feather coats had their "town" at the base of a tall rock joined to the island by a short peninsula, and on this peninsula the queer birds were waddling about in a carefree manner as though it were their public park, or, as the explorers put it, the "penguins' parade ground." They had not realised that they had become Australian citizens!

These lonely, storm-swept islands which in the past were hardly ever visited are likely to become important places as man reaches out to conquer the last unknown continent—Antarctica.

## MUMMIES AND JEWELLERY ON VIEW AGAIN

AT the British Museum the rooms containing the fascinating collection of ancient Egyptian mummies have been reopened after having been closed since before the war. Altogether five Egyptian rooms and one Babylonian have been reopened.

The mummies are, of course, the embalmed remains of Egyptians who lived thousands of years ago. The ancient Egyptians believed that the human soul must return to its earthly body, so they took great pains to preserve the bodies of the dead.

In another room are the

sculptures on loan from Mr C. S. Gulbenkian, among which is the superb black obsidian head believed to represent Amenemhat III, and dated about 2050 B.C.

In the Babylonian room are some of the finest of the objects found by Sir Leonard Woolley at Ur, including the standing gold goat. Here too is some of the incomparable gold work and jewellery that the Assyrian goldsmiths made for the greatest of the Assyrian Kings, Ashurnasipal, Ashurbanipal—that great lion slayer—and Sennacherib, who came down "like a wolf on the fold" on Israel. Here too are the

gold and jewelled ornaments, the necklaces, the bracelets, the headdresses of Assyrian Queens.

Some of the craftsmanship, especially of the headdresses, is so fine that only the most skilled of today's craftsmen could reproduce it; and those who can are still very few. But other gold work is almost as impressive, the reproduction of the King's helmet and the golden bull's head; the gold spearhead; the gold dagger and sheath of a Governor; and a number of gold-sheathed heads of bulls and of a lion killed by the prowess of some mighty hunters before the Lord.

## THE STORK'S LONG SERVICE

A GRAND old ship whose timbers have for 36 years resounded with the merry shouts of eager youth is nearing the end of her days. She is the training ship Stork, which since 1912 has been moored to the Thames-side at Hammersmith, where she has seen generation after generation of boys learn their seamanship on board of her.

The Stork has been recently entirely under the control of the British Legion, who have used her for training the orphan sons of ex-Servicemen to be sailors in the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy. Now the Stork Committee have recommended that the ship should no longer be used as she is getting too old, and it remains for the British Legion to decide what shall be done with her.

### A Navy Veteran

The Stork was a Royal Navy veteran when she first came to Hammersmith, for she was launched in 1882 as a combined sail-and-steam cruising vessel of the gunboat type. One of a family of nine, called the Thrush class, she was built of iron and wood. HMS Thrush, her sister ship, was commanded by King George V, father of our present King, when he was on active service in the Royal Navy. To us, HMS Thrush would have looked much more like a private yacht than a warship; she had three schooner-rigged masts and one funnel and was painted white.

For many years the Stork sailed and steamed across the oceans of the world and once made a record by being the first vessel of her type to cross the bar at the mouth of the River Zambesi.

She saw the old century out and 12 years of the new before she went to her last home at Hammersmith to become the floating Alma Mater of many a British sailor—at first as a headquarters for Sea Cadets under the Navy League, and later as a training ship for war orphans.

When she passes, as it seems certain she must, many a grown man will feel that a link with his youth has gone.

## THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW FOREST—Picture Version of Captain Marryat's Story



Jacob had bequeathed to the orphans his money, amounting to over 60 gold coins and much silver. Oswald the keeper, who was Royalist and knew the secret of the orphans' real name, came to take Edward to Lymington to show him the shops. But Oswald said they must take care that no one recognised Edward as the son of the Cavalier Colonel Beverley, or the Roundheads might imprison him.



Edward had been deeply moved by the news of Charles the First's execution. In a gunsmith's shop he saw a sword which seemed familiar. "It is Colonel Beverley's," said the shopman. "It was brought here to be cleaned, but never called for, as all the Beverleys are dead." Edward controlled himself and said that he had been a servant of the Beverleys and would buy the sword.



Oswald told Edward that Patience Heatherstone was most anxious to thank him for saving her life in the burning Lodge. Edward hated all Roundheads and went reluctantly to the Lodge. However, when Patience told him her father was in London, where he had tried to prevent the execution of the King, he thought better of him; and he certainly liked Patience very much.



Edward continued helping his brother and sisters on their little farm, but all the time he dreamed of fighting for the Royalist cause. One night, while he was wandering moodily in the Forest, he became lost and, seeing a light, crept towards it and overheard two marauders plotting to rob a Cavalier and his young son who lived in hiding nearby. Edward stealthily followed them.

Who are these Cavaliers? Can Edward save them? See next week's instalment



The Children's Newspaper, January 24, 1948

## Mars at His Nearest

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE planet Mars is now approaching his nearest point to us for this year and is the most prominent object of the south-east sky in the late evening. Mars now rises at about 7.30 p.m., and an hour or so later may be readily recognised by his reddish hue, below and to the left of the first-magnitude star Regulus, which appears less bright than the planet.

Apart from the Moon, Mars is at present the nearest world to the Earth, and is 69 million miles away; but by February 17, when Mars will be at his nearest to us, he will be but 63 million miles distant. He will then be at his brightest and will also be higher.

Venus, which is now such a brilliant object in the south-west sky in the early evening, appears much brighter than Mars, not because she is nearer but because she is larger, having a diameter of about 7700 miles as



The present position of Mars and his apparent path

compared with the 4215 miles of Mars. Moreover, the surface of Venus is largely covered with masses of white clouds that reflect the sunlight much better than the rough and largely solid and sandy surface of Mars. Venus is now about 105 million miles away.

During next week the Moon will appear in the same region of the sky as Mars and so will dim his radiance considerably. On the evening of January 27 she will appear a little way to the right of the planet and by the next evening she will appear to the left. In the early morning of January 28, however, the Moon will pass in front of Mars.

The precise time for this event differs for various parts of Britain. In the south-east area it will begin about 6.10 a.m., when Mars will disappear below the upper-left side of the Moon's gibbous disc. He will reappear at about 6.25 a.m. from near the top of the Moon, and will thus be hidden for only about fifteen to sixteen minutes. As seen from farther north in Britain, the time will be less. At this early hour Mars and the Moon will appear in the western sky.

It will be of interest during the next few weeks to watch the progress of Mars, now that he has reversed his motion since January 10 and is apparently travelling to the right or westwards. This will continue until the end of March, after which he will appear to turn again and will speed to the left or eastwards along his true course, as indicated in our star-map.

This curious motion of Mars presents the singular loop which is the result of the perspective produced by the combined motions of the Earth and Mars, and the planet attaining such an exceptionally high altitude during March. Actually it is the Earth which is overtaking Mars, the relative speeds being about 900 miles a minute for Mars and 1100 for the Earth. G. F. M.

## WHEN BIRD MEETS PLANE

PEREGRINE falcons are being trained at the R.A.F. airfield at Shawbury in Shropshire to drive off large flocks of birds which infest the concrete runways of the airfield and which rise in clouds in front of aircraft taking off or alighting.

The damage caused by such birds colliding with aeroplanes costs the R.A.F. more than £20,000 every year, to say nothing of the injuries caused to airmen, and if the experiments at Shawbury are a success further teams of falcons may be trained and stationed at other airfields.

The same problem has to be faced at civilian airports, for these unauthorised visitors are becoming more and more numerous and dangerous as aeroplanes fly faster and require longer runways. Portable scarecrows, smoke bombs, and flares have all failed to discourage the birds. Will the birds of prey be more successful?

### Gull Through Windshield

Two recent accidents illustrate how dangerous birds can be to flying men. A few weeks ago a large R.A.F. aircraft was preparing to land at a Cornish aerodrome when a seagull crashed through the windshield. The pilot was severely cut by flying glass and the craft would undoubtedly have flown into the ground if the assistant pilot had not grasped the controls just in time. More recently, an airliner leaving Manchester for London hit a flock of birds after taking off from Ringway Airport. The plane had to return for repairs and its journey was delayed for two and a half hours.

During the recent war, and especially when aircraft flew in formation at low altitudes, many accidents were caused by birds. The leading machines often disturbed flocks of resting birds on the ground, causing them to take wing in the path of machines which followed; and one British pilot, in his official report of a particularly daring "tree-top" raid in 1942, said that the flocks of lapwings, swallows, geese, and even herons, encountered were more dangerous than the worst anti-aircraft fire of the enemy.

An American firm once experimented to see if they could make a windscreen capable of withstanding impact with birds when flying at high speed. A special catapult, operated by compressed air, hurled dummy birds against different types of windscreens at speeds between 75 and 300 miles an hour. Even at the slow speed of 75 m.p.h. it was found that a four-pound "bird" penetrated a screen of toughened glass a quarter of an inch thick.

At 300 m.p.h. a sheet of special glass composed of several alternate layers of glass and vinyl (a plastic something like celluloid and three-quarters of an inch thick) was needed to ward off a dummy of the same weight.

Windshields, however, are not the only parts of aircraft damaged by birds. Rudders, wings, and even engines have sometimes been seriously damaged in this way, and a rapidly-revolving propeller can be completely wrecked by the impact of quite a small bird.

Although most such accidents take place at low level, birds are often met in great numbers at considerable heights, especially during migration. A flock of geese which were accidentally included in a photograph of an eclipse of the sun were found to be flying at the tremendous height of 29,000 feet!

### A Cushion of Air

Clearing birds from airfields, therefore, cannot solve the whole problem of birds versus aircraft; but pilots may eventually be given protection from personal injury at all heights. For experts of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough are trying to design an aeroplane fuselage with the nose so shaped that a "cushion" of compressed air forms in front of the windscreen. Birds flying into the path of such an aircraft will thus "bounce" off this invisible barrier, and will then be carried harmlessly away by the air currents rushing towards the aircraft's tail.

## The Sunflower Gives Us Oil

THE great ground-nut scheme has brought Tanganyika much into the news of late. It is probable that 1948 will see the beginning of preparations for the cultivation on a large scale of another crop new to the Territory—Sunflowers.

For centuries Russia has grown vast crops of sunflowers for their valuable oil-bearing seeds; and many European countries have been large cultivators, Rumania having been the world's second largest grower until the Argentine succeeded in surpassing her production.

Curiously enough, until now, Canada, Australia, and Southern Rhodesia have been the only countries within the Commonwealth and Empire to grow this crop in a big way, so it is time we realised the value of the sunflower and began to grow it in more of the wide open spaces where it would almost certainly flourish.

The amount of oil in the seed is 30 per cent, and it is classified as a semi-drying oil equal to the

best olive oil. It is excellent for making margarine, paints, and can also be used for many other purposes.

The plant itself, so familiar in cottage gardens, is easy to grow, and it is much easier to harvest in hotter countries where there is a longer growing season. It grows on any fertile soil that is not an acid one, and may well be easier to cultivate and harvest than ground-nuts. It is already being suggested, for instance, that it should be grown in rotation with the ground-nuts in Tanganyika Territory.

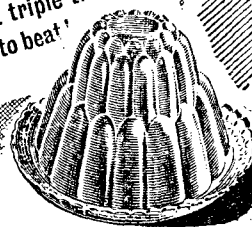
### HOW TO CRACK AN EGG SHELL

AT San Francisco not long ago the world's largest crane was tested; it has taken three years to build. A 630-ton concrete block, believed to be the heaviest weight ever lifted by a crane, was hoisted into the air and gently lowered to an egg without breaking it. Then the block was lowered a little farther, cracking the shell but leaving the yolk unbroken.

Good at riddles?



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Comes in three flavours—a triple treat;  
It's easy to make and hard to beat!



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### THANKS GIRLS AND BOYS

Wouldn't you like to think that you had earned the thanks of some boy or girl whose childhood is not as happy as your own. Some boy or girl whose parents are not as kind as yours? We are sure you would. The best way to help is by joining the League of Pity.

Wear this fine badge and show you are helping to do a great work. Every member who gives 10/- is entitled to it. Why not write to the Director and ask him to send you full details?

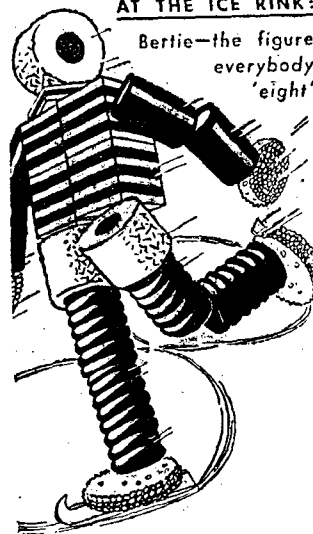


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## THE BRAN TUB

### A HINT

THE public speaker had gone on and on but finally showed a sign of stopping.

"If I have spoken for too long," he said, "it is because I have no watch and there is no clock in the hall."

From the back of the hall came a voice.

"But there's a calendar behind you!"

### Wisdom From Persia

TWO ears and but a single tongue  
By Nature's laws to man belong;  
The lesson she would teach is clear:  
Repeat but half of what you hear.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Red and Fallow Deer. Don's excitement mounted as they drew closer and closer to the browsing deer. Suddenly the stag raised his head and sniffed the air; then, wheeling sharply, he plunged into a nearby thicket.

"The wind was carrying our scent away from him or he'd have been off sooner," said Farmer Gray.

"What splendid antlers he had," remarked Don.

"Yes," agreed the farmer. "He will shed them soon and new ones will grow. Deer cast their antlers annually; the red variety shed theirs by February, but fallow deer keep theirs a month or so longer."

### Tongue Twister

SAMMY'S soccer socks shocked sensitive spectators.

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Hide-and-Seek

WHEN Tabitha had four little kittens, Rose and Judy were delighted to be told they might each have one to keep, though the others must be given away, as five cats were too many in a bungalow. Such soft little balls of fur the kittens were! Rose chose the black-and-white, and christened him Pie, short for Maggie. Judy could not think what to call her little Tabby, who had white paws and a snowy shirtfront.

Many suggestions were made, but Judy said she wanted to think of "something special."

At first Tabitha and her babies spent their time in a basket before the sitting-room fire, but the kittens soon grew old enough to run about, and Rose and Judy were never tired of watching their antics.

One evening when Daddy came home, he found the little girls in great distress. "My kitten's lost!" mourned Judy; and so it seemed, for Tabitha was mewing, and Pie was scrambling about the room as if to join in the search for his missing playmate. "Don't worry, he'll turn up," reassured Daddy, and suggested a game of "Snap" till bedtime.

"The fire's a bit dismal," he

said, then, as he stooped to mend it—"Look, Judy."

From the coalbox, stretching his tiny legs and yawning widely, crawled a very coal-dusty kitten. His shirtfront



was grimy, and so were his paws.

"You little chimney-sweep!" laughed Daddy. "What a hunt you have given us!"

Judy snatched up the kitten, coaldust and all. "Why, Sweep is just the name for him!" she exclaimed. "Thank you, Daddy, for being so clever."

And if people think that Sweep is a funny name for a cat, the tabby kitten seemed to like it well enough—he always answered to it!

## Jacko is Not a Sweeping Success



Jacko is lending a hand with the snow clearing.



"Ha," muttered big brother Adolphus, "that seems to be the end of the snow."



But how wrong he was—and once more Jacko was in trouble.

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Venus is in the south-west, and Mars and Saturn are in the south-east. Uranus is in the south. In the morning Jupiter is low in the south-east and Mars is in the west. The picture shows the Moon at 8.0 p.m. on Thursday, January 22.



### Number, Please

WHAT number is it that if we add three to it, divide the result by three, subtract three, and then multiply by three, leaves exactly half the first number?

### A Nursery Rhyme Revised

SING a song of sixpence,  
Something to put by.  
Spend it now on nothing,  
And do not wonder why.  
When the nest-egg's opened,  
You will chirp and sing.  
Lending lots of sixpences  
Much better times will bring.

### GOING SHOPPING

AT your next party try this game, called Shopping. One player is sent out of the room and the remainder choose a type of shop—for example, a Greengrocer's. Each person is given the name of a different commodity sold in that shop. Then the victim is called back into the room, and all the guests slowly chant: IN OUR SHOP WE SELL—each person calling the name of his fruit. The chant is repeated three times, then the victim has to guess the type of shop.

When all the names are spoken together it is surprisingly difficult to pick out any one name which will give a clue.

### Vegetable Diet

A FAT little man down at Pinner,  
Although he was fond of his dinner,  
Said, "Now for my lunch  
A carrot I'll munch—  
That might make me taller and thinner."

### SLEEPING QUICKLY

"I ONLY slept two hours last night," said Bill.  
"Really," replied Jack, "you must be very tired."  
"Oh, no; I slept very quickly."

### Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, January 21, to Tuesday, January 27

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 A Toytown Adventure. 5.30 Silly Symphony.  
THURSDAY, 5.0 The Swish of the Curtain (Part 3). 5.40 Swallows and Amazons (5). Northern Ireland, 5.0 The Strange Letter—a story; Peter Comes in from the Farm; Far Horizons (Part 2); Songs. Scottish, 5.40 Round the Countryside. Welsh, 5.30 The Pendulyn Robbery—a story; Welsh Folk Dances. North, 5.0 A Nursery Sing-Song; Your Hobbies; News From Belle Vue Zoo.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Hare and the Field of Millet—a story; BBC Welsh Orchestra. North, 5.0 Mr Polperro—a play; Mad Monarch of the Underworld—a story.

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Coloured Coons; How I Learned—Hockey. West, 5.0 Young Bill—a story; Songs; Purbeck Marble—a story. North, 5.0 General Knowledge Quiz; Music from Plays; The Romance of the Motor-car.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Calendar—January. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Cockie—a story; Kilkeel Convent Choir; Children's Scripts; A Competition. Scottish, Lad From Kyle—a play.

MONDAY, 5.0 Through the Looking Glass (Part 4). 5.30 Records. 5.40 News From the Zoo. Scottish, Lad From Kyle—a play. West, 5.40 Safety Last—a story.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Black Beauty (Part 4). 5.15 Boyd Neel. 5.35 Book Review. Midland, 5.15 Benny, Cotswold Peg-boy—a play; Albert Webb and his String Players.

## ANYTHING TO OBLIGE

ALL the morning the angler had sat there without catching a thing. A small boy, running ahead of his mother, approached. "Let me see you catch a fish," he called excitedly.

Mother heard her son's request. "Don't catch a fish for him until he says please," she said sternly.

### Pithy Proverb

A VALIANT man's look is more than a coward's sword.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Hidden Composers  
Handel, Elgar,  
Bach, Verdi,  
Wagner, Chopin.

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### Who Was He?

THE man in the picture-story on Page 6 was St Paul.

"Don't want to go to bed—till I've had my OXO!"



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